

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An improved method of producing differentiated progenitor cells comprising obtaining inner cell mass cells from a blastocyst and inducing differentiation of the inner 5 cell mass cells to produce differentiated progenitor cells. The differentiated progenitor cells may be transfected such that there is an addition, deletion or alteration of a desired gene. The differentiated progenitor cells are useful in cell therapy and as a source of cells for the production of tissues and organs for transplantation. Also provided is a method of producing a lineage-defective human embryonic stem cell.

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